

2001P02943WOUS
Boller et al.
Application No.: 10/668,971

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for filling, removing, and transporting a receiving container for sorted items, a number of which are filled along a sorting path with sorted items at individual destination points, the sorting items being of the same type, and after filling are transported away from the destination points by way of a transport facility, comprising the steps of:

- placing an empty receiving container on an upper surface of a holder;
- inserting the empty receiving container and the holder on a guide beneath a destination point;
- withdrawing the receiving container and the holder at least once for filling with sorted items so that the receiving container is removed from beneath the destination point during filling, a withdrawing direction being crosswise with respect to a sorting path direction and opposite to an insertion direction;
- reinserting the container and holder after the filling so that the container is positioned beneath the destination point;
- raising the container from the holder in response to a control command, the raising being performed by a lift;
- withdrawing the holder in an opposite direction to an insertion direction;
- lowering the receiving container via the lift onto the transport facility situated beneath the destination point;
- transporting the receiving container away from the destination point via the transport facility; and
- moving the lift into an idle position.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of replacing the container with another container at the destination point.

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3. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- prior to the step of lowering, determining if a space below the container is occupied, and
- if the space is occupied, not performing the step of lowering.

4. - 17. (cancelled)